

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/920,059

Examiner

Wen-Tai Lin

Applicant(s)

QUINE ET AL.

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 1/18/05 and telephone interview held on 4/7/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-17, 19-62 and 64-71, renumbered as 1-68.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 8/1/01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Wen-Tai Lin
4/8/05

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

2. Authorization for the examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Christopher Capelli, Reg. No. 38405, on April 7, 2005.

3. In the claims:

Please cancel claim 4 and amend claims 1, 5, 70 and 71 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to forward messages in an organization having an e-mail system wherein messages that are sent to a departed member's e-mail address are forwarded to a successor member's e-mail address, the method comprising the steps of:

associating the departed member's disfavored e-mail address with the successor member's e-mail address as a corresponding forwarding address in an e-mail forwarding computer;

providing an electronic address for receiving messages at the e-mail forwarding computer, said messages relating to any of the plurality of disfavored e-mail addresses;

receiving said messages at the electronic address;

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identifying, with the e-mail forwarding computer, a disfavored e-mail address in a received message, the disfavored e-mail address being other than the electronic address for the e-mail forwarding computer;

determining, with the e-mail forwarding computer, a forwarding e-mail address associated with the disfavored e-mail address;

sending a forward confirmation request, indicating that the message will be forwarded, to a message originator; and

waiting until a forwarding confirmation authorization is received from the message originator before initiating the forwarding step and

forwarding at least a portion of the received message from the e-mail forwarding computer to the associated forwarding e-mail address.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of: including an activatable link along with the forwarding confirmation request, wherein the activatable link will automatically send the forwarding confirmation authorization to the e-mail forwarding computer when activated by the message originator.

70. (Currently Amended) A method to forward messages to forwarding e-mail addresses, the method comprising the steps of:

associating a plurality of disfavored e-mail addresses with corresponding forwarding e-mail addresses in an e-mail forwarding computer;

providing an electronic address for receiving messages at the e-mail forwarding computer, said messages relating to any of the plurality of disfavored e-mail addresses;

receiving said messages at the electronic address;

identifying, with the e-mail forwarding computer, a disfavored e-mail address in a received message, the disfavored e-mail address being other than the electronic address for the e-mail forwarding computer;

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determining, with the e-mail forwarding computer, a forwarding e-mail address associated with the disfavored e-mail address;

sending a forward confirmation request, indicating that the message will be forwarded, to a message originator;

waiting until a forwarding confirmation authorization is received from the message originator before initiating the forwarding step;

forwarding at least a portion of the received message from the e-mail forwarding computer to the associated forwarding e-mail address;

receiving an e-mail message at an e-mail system server for an e-mail service provider;

determining at the e-mail system server that the e-mail message is undeliverable; automatically redirecting the undeliverable e-mail message to the electronic address of the e-mail forwarding computer, the undeliverable e-mail message becoming the received message at the e-mail forwarding computer.

71. (Currently Amended) A method to forward messages to forwarding e-mail addresses, the method comprising the steps of:

associating a plurality of disfavored e-mail addresses with corresponding forwarding e-mail addresses in an e-mail forwarding computer;

providing an electronic address for receiving messages at the e-mail forwarding computer, said messages relating to any of the plurality of disfavored e-mail addresses;

receiving said messages at the electronic address;

identifying, with the e-mail forwarding computer, a disfavored e-mail address in a received message, the disfavored e-mail address being other than the electronic address for the e-mail forwarding computer;

determining, with the e-mail forwarding computer, a forwarding e-mail address associated with the disfavored e-mail address;

sending a forward confirmation request, indicating that the message will be forwarded, to a message originator;

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waiting until a forwarding confirmation authorization is received from the message originator before initiating the forwarding step;

forwarding at least a portion of the received message from the e-mail forwarding computer to the associated forwarding e-mail address;

sending an e-mail message from an originator to an e-mail address at an e-mail system server for an e-mail service provider;

determining at the e-mail system server that the e-mail address is undeliverable;

returning the undeliverable message to the originator; and

sending the undeliverable e-mail message from the originator to the e-mail forwarding computer whereby the undeliverable message becomes the received message at the e-mail forwarding computer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wen-Tai Lin whose telephone number is (571)272-3969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-5:00) .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571)272-3964. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703)872-9306 for official communications; and


(571)273-3969 for status inquires draft communication.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wen-Tai Lin

April 7, 2005


4/7/05